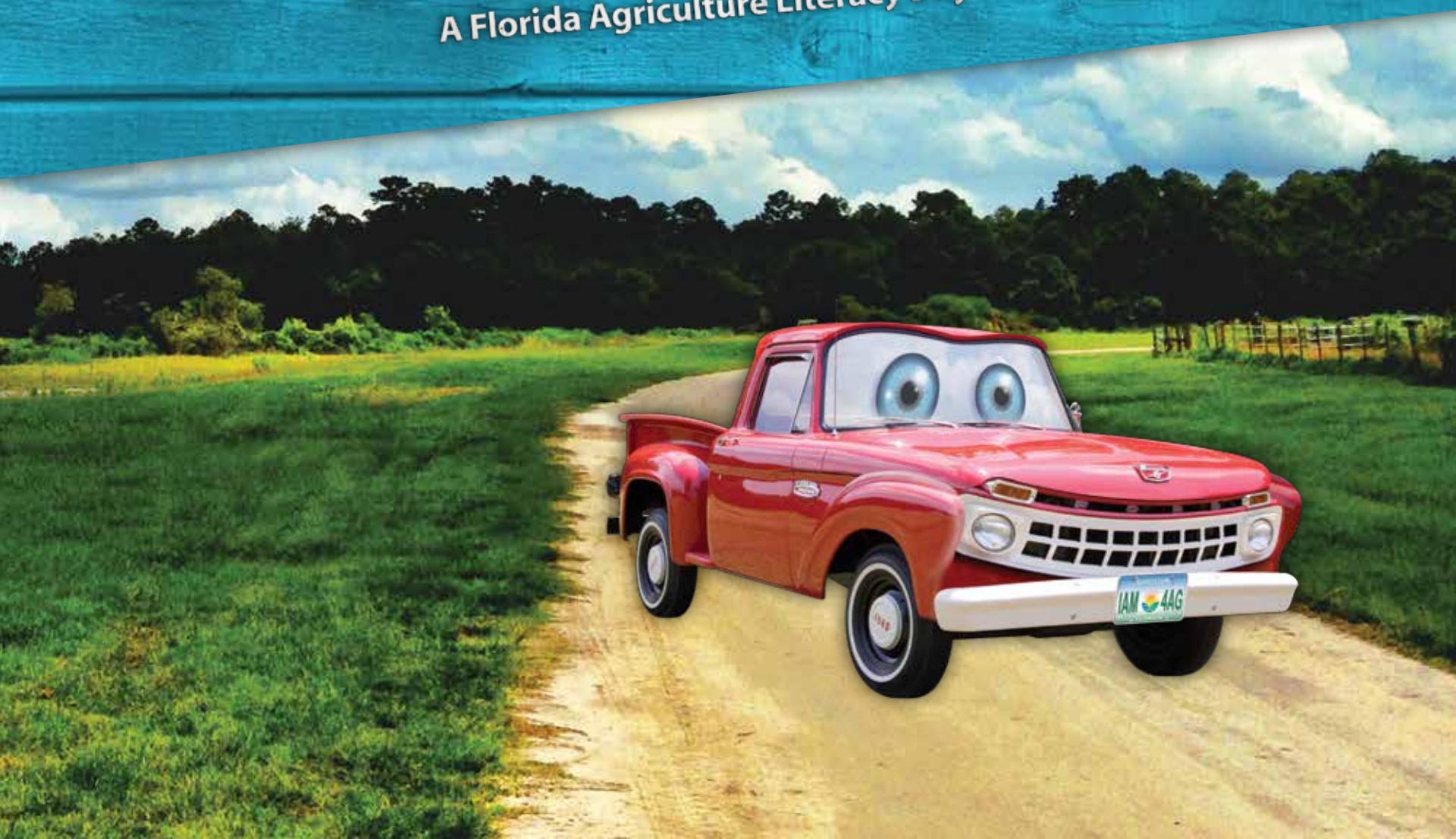




# DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA

## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book



## READING KEY

### FLORIDA AGRICULTURE LITERACY DAY

is an annual event held each spring in which hundreds of agriculture industry representatives read a designated children's book about agriculture in elementary school classrooms around the state. The event is a partnership between Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

is a nonprofit association charged with educating Florida students and teachers about the importance of Florida agriculture. It is funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate known as the "Ag Tag." Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is able to provide Agriculture Literacy Day books and other related items free of charge because of the funding it receives from the Ag Tag.



#### KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

- **BLUE TEXT, RED TEXT IN BUBBLES** (limited)

students in kindergarten through 2nd grade have short attention spans. Read only three or four blue text stanzas per animal and the opening red text in bubbles.

#### 3RD - 5TH GRADE

- **BLUE TEXT, RED TEXT IN BUBBLES, PHOTO CAPTIONS**

students in 3rd-5th grade are more engaged. Read most of blue text stanzas, red text in bubbles and photo captions.

#### ALL STUDENTS

- **MAP TEXT**

may be read as time permits.

- **GREEN COUNTIES**

on the Florida map represent the counties with the greatest number of animals.

- **LIGHT BLUE COUNTIES**

on the Florida map represent the counties with the second and third highest number of animals.

- **BLACK TEXT AND FUN FACTS**

are supplemental and may be read as time permits.

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# DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA

## LIVESTOCK AND POLUTRY

A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book

Written by

Arlette Roberge and Charlene R. Johnson

Illustration and Design by

An Kinsey and Mark Cason



Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services



Fresh  
from  
Florida®



Florida  
Agriculture in  
the Classroom, Inc.

"Educate Students About Florida Agriculture"  
(352) 846-1391 www.AgTag.org

# HOWDY!



My name is Ole Red.

I'm an old truck, but I'm not as old as agriculture! Do you know what agriculture is? Agriculture has been around for a long time, and whether you know it or not, it's an important part of your everyday life.

So hop on board and come along as we visit livestock and poultry farms throughout Florida. They are spread from north to south and east to west, so get ready for quite a ride.



# FUN FACTS



# BEEF CATTLE

Cattle ranching is the job of owning, raising and working cattle. People in these jobs are called cattlemen or cattlewomen.



CATTLEWOMEN



1880 CATTLEMEN

Cattle have been in Florida for almost 500 years. Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León brought them here in boats in 1521. The cattle roamed the countryside and grew in numbers. In the late 1800s, cow hunters gathered them up and began cattle ranching to feed themselves and others.

Cattle ranches are big green areas, and that's good for conserving the natural environment. In addition to grassy areas, cattle ranches have wetlands, woodlands and prairies where birds and other wild animals also live. Having these big open areas lets rain water soak back into the ground so nature can use it.



Let's start in Okeechobee County to learn about cattle. Highlands and Osceola counties also have many cows.

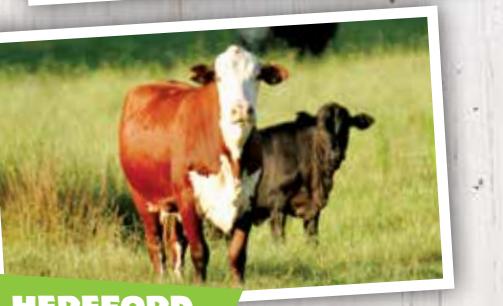
Would you believe Florida has nearly 1.6 million beef cattle! That puts Florida in the top 15 states for the number of cattle. When Florida cattle reach about 400 to 500 pounds, they are sold and shipped to the West and Midwest where they can continue to grow until they are big enough to be harvested.



## COMMON TYPES OF BEEF CATTLE:



ANGUS



HEREFORD



BRAHMAN



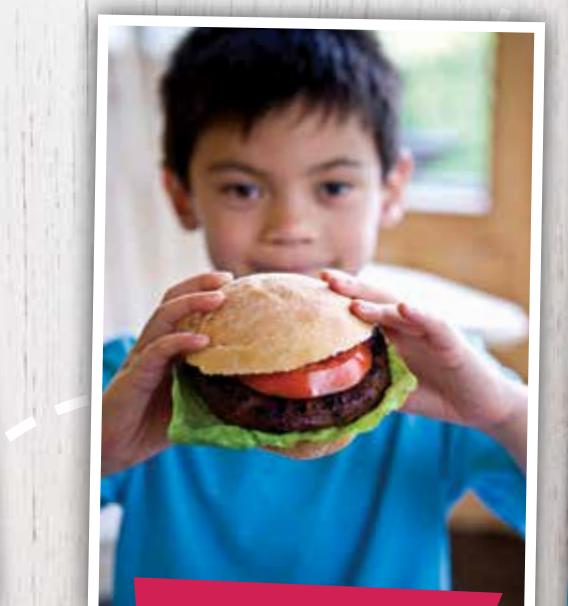
Beef cows live abundantly well in the grasslands.

Cattle ranches help many people's jobs and that is good for Florida's economy. People who sell cattle feed, tractors, barns, fences, fertilizer and other useful things that cattle ranchers need also benefit from cattle ranches.



TRACTOR

And don't forget about the grocery stores and restaurants that sell the beef! People who work there benefit when you enjoy those yummy hamburgers and steaks.



HAMBURGER



EIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES' TOP 25 LARGEST COW-CALF OPERATIONS ARE IN FLORIDA.

FLORIDA HAS 4 MILLION ACRES OF PASTURELAND AND 1

MILLION ACRES OF GRAZED WOODLAND.

$\frac{1}{2}$  OF ALL FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL LAND IS INVOLVED IN CATTLE PRODUCTION.



FLORIDA-BRED CATTLE ARE SENT ALL OVER THE WORLD BECAUSE THEY CAN TOLERATE HOT CLIMATES.

# FUN FACTS



## DAIRY CATTLE



Did you know that some breeds of cattle are best at providing meat and others are best for producing milk? We call the cows that are good at producing milk dairy cows.



MILK WAGONS AT WALDO'S DAIRY  
- DELAND, FLORIDA 1900



Dairy cows were first brought to America in 1611 through Jamestown, Virginia. By the 1800s, they were being sold to North Florida plantations in Leon and Jefferson counties. However, these plantations used the milk from their dairy cows for their own families and households. In the late 1800s, dairies started selling their products to people in cities.

### MOST FLORIDA DAIRY COWS ARE HOLSTEINS.

Holsteins usually have black and white or red and white spots. An average Holstein cow weighs 1,400 pounds, but they don't need to go on a diet. They need to eat about 100 pounds of feed each day and drink up to 50 gallons of water.



Florida Dairy Farmers



FAMILY FARM

We have more than 130 dairy farms in Florida, and almost all of them are family-owned. Sometimes dairy farmers are up before the sun. Cows need to be milked two or three times a day, starting in the early morning. Within two or three days, their milk will be in your neighborhood grocery store. If you like milk, cheese, yogurt and butter, thank our Florida dairy farmers.



FRESH COW MILK



MILKING COWS

In the old days, cows were milked by hand. Now they are milked mechanically.



EACH DAIRY COW PRODUCES  
**6 to 8**  
GALLONS OF MILK EACH DAY.

FLORIDA RANKS  
**1<sup>st</sup>** IN THE SOUTHEAST AND  
**19<sup>th</sup>** IN THE U.S. IN MILK PRODUCTION.

86% OF FLORIDA MILK IS SOLD AS DRINKING MILK.



COWS ARE FED A COMBINATION OF HAY, GRAIN AND SILAGE (FERMENTED CORN OR GRASS).



# FUN FACTS



INSULIN AND

**40**

OTHER MEDICINES  
COME FROM PIGS.

A PIG IS A YOUNG HOG.  
PIGS WEIGH APPROXIMATELY **2½** POUNDS AT BIRTH.



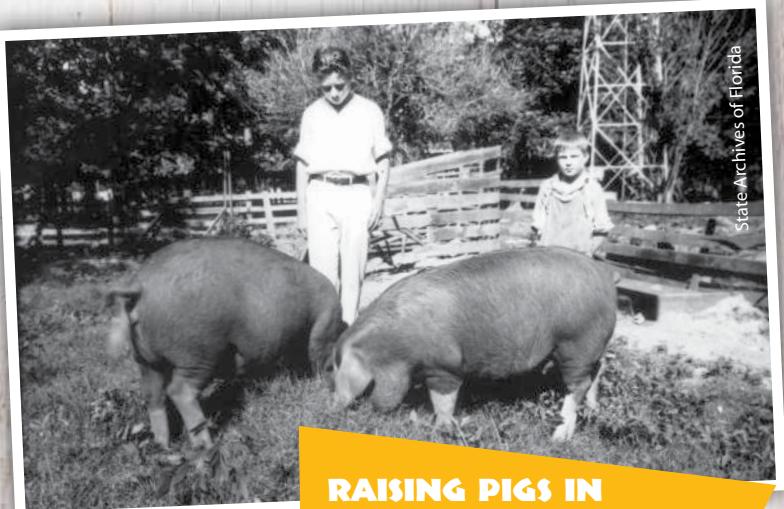
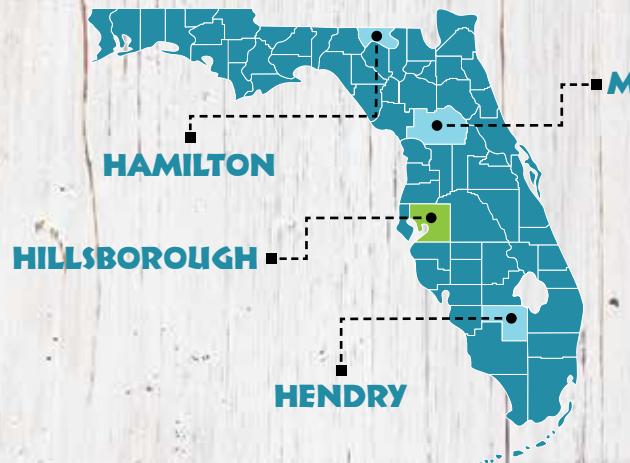
A PIG CAN RUN A **7** MINUTE MILE.

PIGS HAVE GONE TO WAR, SERVING AS MINE SNIFFERS.

# HOGS AND PIGS

If you like sausage or bacon with your breakfast, remember that these foods come from swine. Swine is the term for hogs and pigs.

How did these animals get to Florida? It is generally believed that Juan Ponce de León introduced swine to Florida in 1521, but Hernando De Soto is often called "the father of the American pork industry." He was a Spanish explorer who landed in Tampa Bay with 13 pigs in 1539. In three years' time his herd grew to more than 700 pigs. The pigs that ran away became wild and are the ancestors of today's razorbacks or feral pigs.



Well, hop back in. We're driving from Okeechobee to Hillsborough County because a lot of our hogs are there.



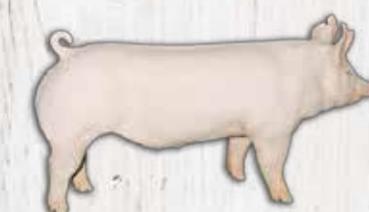
Today, we have more than 14,000 hogs and pigs in Florida. Many are here in Hillsborough County. Hamilton, Hendry and Marion counties also have a lot of pigs and hogs.

Many of the breeds of hogs and pigs raised for sale in Florida and the rest of the U.S. are crossbreeds of the Yorkshire, Hampshire and Duroc. Much effort goes into raising hogs and pigs. Even a small farm will need at least two acres so they are not too close to neighbors. They also need shade, an open-fronted shelter and a covered self-feeder.

## COMMON TYPES OF HOGS AND PIGS:



HAMPSHIRE



YORKSHIRE



DUROC



Like every animal, there are males and females. The females are called sows and the males are called boars. A young female that has not had a litter of baby pigs is called gilt. Farrowing is the word used for giving birth to pigs. Boars eat between five and eight pounds of food each day. A sow generally eats about four pounds of food each day. However, after she has a litter she can eat up to 12 pounds of food per day and require up to seven gallons of water.

Does it take a lot of work to care for hogs? You bet it does!

# FUN FACTS



# POULTRY

Poultry can mean chicken, but it can also include turkeys, ducks and geese. All poultry have feathers, but no teeth or sweat glands. The most common is the chicken.

In the early part of the 1900s, many households had their own backyard flocks. These chickens supplied eggs for the family and an occasional chicken for Sunday or holiday dinners.

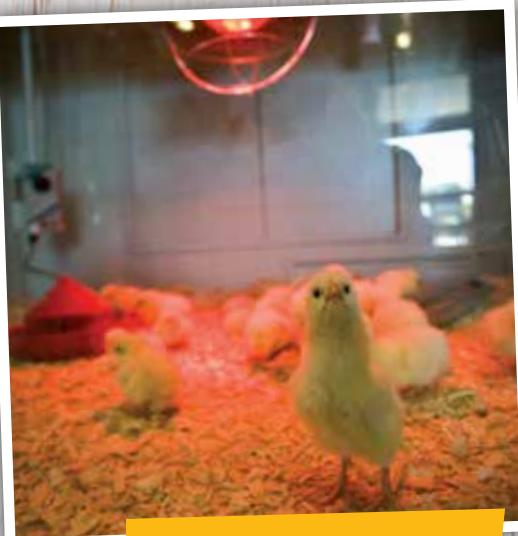


1900S CHICKEN COOP



## CHICKENS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO TYPES:

- BROILERS** are the chickens raised for meat
- LAYERS** are the hens that provide eggs



INCUBATOR

Florida settlers learned to use the incubator to raise more layers. These chickens were being raised for their eggs; the business of raising chickens to sell for meat came later.

ALL EGGS SOLD IN RETAIL MARKETS MUST MEET QUALITY STANDARDS.

### GRADES AA OR A

are the highest quality eggs and are sold in supermarkets.

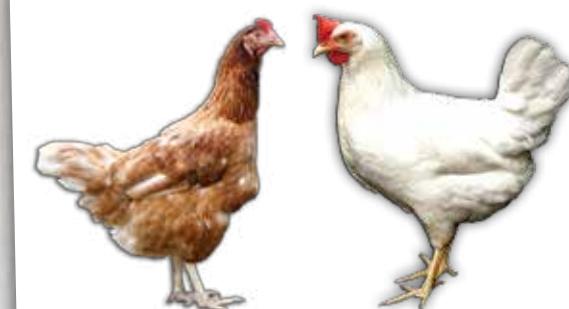


In the 1950s, the poultry industry took off. Now, there are egg farms throughout Florida. But the farms that sell the most eggs are still right here in Hernando County.

### POPULAR BREEDS OF LAYING HENS

**RHODE ISLAND RED**  
(brown eggs)

**WHITE LEGHORNS**  
(white eggs)



Both birds are popular because they are hardy and lay a lot of eggs. The average laying chicken lays no more than one egg a day.



COBB CHICKEN

Cobb-Vantreess, Inc.

Nowadays the majority of meat producers are in North Florida, in Suwannee County. The breed of chicken that is raised for meat is called the Cobb and is a cross between the Cornish Game and the Plymouth Rock chickens. This chicken grows fast and is disease-resistant.



TEENAGE COBB CHICK

## FUN FACTS



EACH YEAR, BETWEEN  
**50 & 70**  
MILLION BROILERS  
ARE SOLD AT THE GROCERY STORE.

FLORIDA EGGS PROVIDE  
**\$180**  
MILLION PER YEAR FOR  
OUR ECONOMY.

FLORIDA EGG PRODUCERS RANK  
**10<sup>th</sup>**  
IN THE UNITED STATES.



AMERICANS EAT MORE THAN  
**2.5**  
BILLION EGGS PER YEAR.  
  
FLORIDA HENS LAY  
**80**  
POUNDS OF CHICKEN PER PERSON PER YEAR.

Florida's poultry industry provides many jobs. These are farmers who raise the birds, the farmers who grow their feed, the truck drivers who deliver the product to the stores, and the grocers who sell the chickens and eggs.

The next time you take a bite of a chicken sandwich, omelet, or another egg dish, think about all the hard work of the people who got those chickens and eggs from the farm to your table.

# FUN FACTS



**THERE ARE MORE THAN  
120,000  
HORSES IN FLORIDA.**

 **FLORIDA HAS  
MORE THAN  
700  
HORSE FARMS.**

**MANY HORSE RIDING  
TRAILS ARE INCLUDED  
IN THE  
110 MILE  
MARJORIE HARRIS CARR  
CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY.  
IT STRETCHES FROM THE  
GULF OF MEXICO TO THE  
ST. JOHNS RIVER.**

**ALL OF FLORIDA'S  
EQUESTRIAN JOBS  
COMBINED BRING IN  
MORE THAN**

**\$2**

**BILLION**  
**EACH YEAR TO  
FLORIDA'S ECONOMY.**

# HORSES

BY CHARLENE R. JOHNSON

Just like some cattle breeds, horses first came into the state when early Spanish explorers brought them to this continent. Some of them escaped their owners and are the descendants of today's Florida cracker horses.



Before we had trucks and cars, horses were very important to settling Florida. Some of the early settlers used horses to help herd cattle, pull wagons and plows, and even take the children to school every day. I bet they were more fun than a school bus!



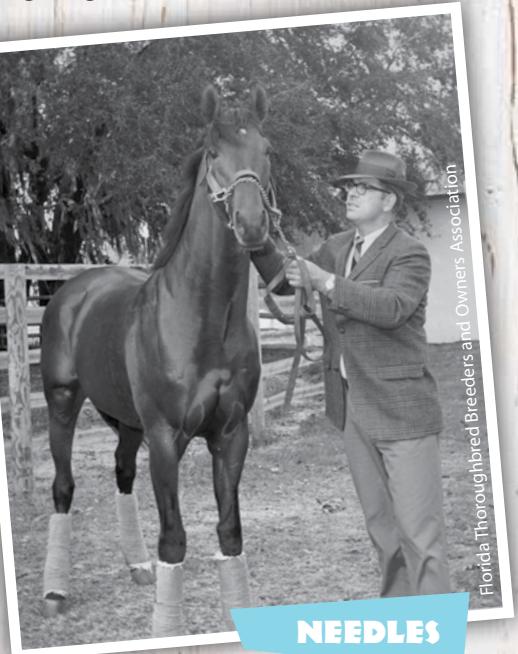
**CRACKER HORSE**



**1900S WAGON**

In the 1930s, race tracks were built near Miami and Tampa Bay. Some people tried to raise Thoroughbred racehorses in South Florida, but they soon learned that Central Florida, had the best land to raise good racehorses.

By the 1950s, there were some very good Thoroughbred horse farms in Marion County. Other horses were raised to herd cattle and were called quarter horses. People outside of Florida laughed at the idea of raising good horses in sandy, palm tree-filled Florida. In 1956, a Florida Thoroughbred named Needles from Marion County won the Kentucky Derby. They weren't laughing after that.



**NEEDLES**

Needles became very famous, and many others decided to try to raise a Derby winner in Marion County, too. In fact, lots of people started breeding horses in Florida, and soon they were raising many famous racehorses. By the 1970s, Florida was one of only four places in the world with a large number of Thoroughbred horses.

Horse farms provide jobs, too!



**THOROUGHBREDS**

Today we also have Arabians, Quarter Horses, miniature horses, Tennessee Walkers, Paints, Shetland Ponies and many other kinds of horses.

The horse breeding industry is spread throughout Florida. Equine is the term for horse families.



**QUARTER HORSE**



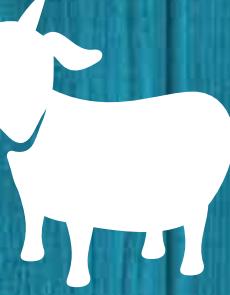
**MINIATURE HORSES**



**PAINTS**

People have to feed the horses, groom them, ride and train them. They haul them to the race tracks or show rings and maybe just out into the woods for a good, long trail ride. Horses also need veterinarians, feed stores and blacksmiths. Horses even have dentists, just like you do! If you get a chance to ride a horse, it will certainly be fun, and it also helps other people earn money for their families.

# FUN FACTS



A LARGE GROUP OF GOATS IS CALLED A **HERD**.



GOATS WERE THE **FIRST** ANIMALS TO BE USED FOR MILK BY HUMANS.

BOTH MALE AND FEMALE GOATS CAN HAVE **BEARDS**.



THE **PUPIL** IN THE EYE OF THE GOAT IS A RECTANGLE.



# GOATS

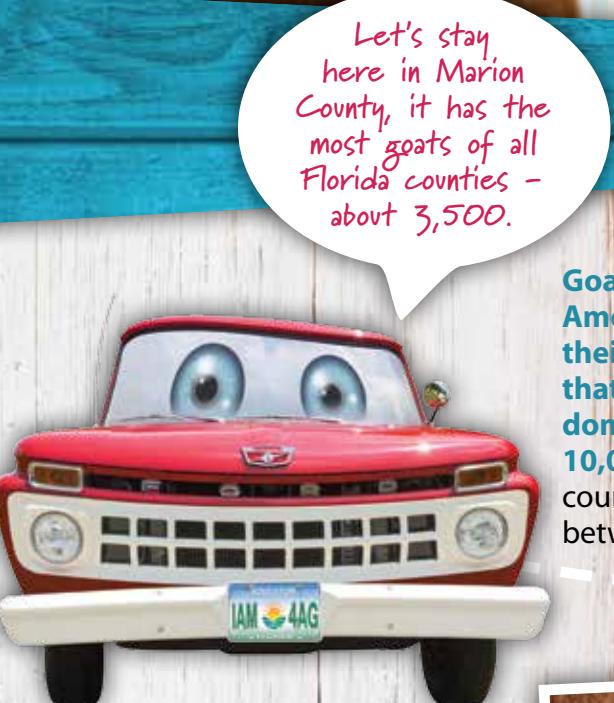


FLORIDA HAS MORE THAN 50,000 GOATS



What do parents and goats have in common? They all have kids! All "kidding" aside, goats are also important to Florida.

There are about 50,000 goats in the state. Marion County has the most goats of all Florida counties - about 3,500. But there are goats in each of Florida's 67 counties.



ANCIENT CAVE PAINTING OF GOATS

Let's stay here in Marion County, it has the most goats of all Florida counties - about 3,500.

Goats were also brought to North America by Spanish explorers, but their history goes back farther than that. They were the first animal domesticated by man more than 10,000 years ago. Today, all Florida counties have goats. Most goat farms are between 10 and 50 acres.

There are several types of goats including goat breeds that are raised just for their meat. Goat meat is popular in many Indian recipes. Here are the most popular Florida meat goats:



BOER

Boer goats were developed in South Africa in the early 1900s for meat production.



MYTONIC

Mytonic goats were developed in Tennessee. They are also called the Tennessee Fainting Goat. They don't really faint. But their legs get stiff when they are startled.

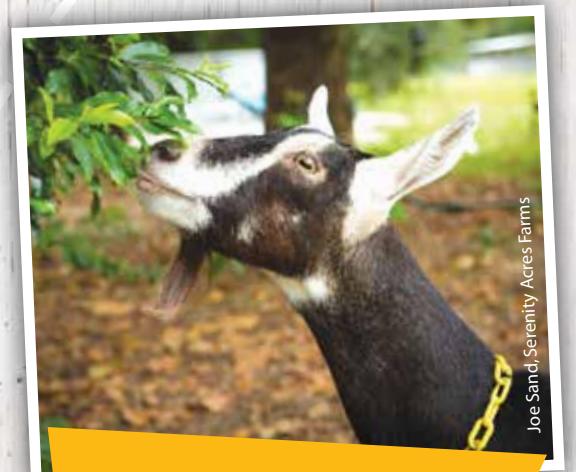


KIKO

Kiko goats originated from New Zealand by crossing feral goats with dairy goats in the 1980s. They were developed for fast growth, survivability and hardiness.



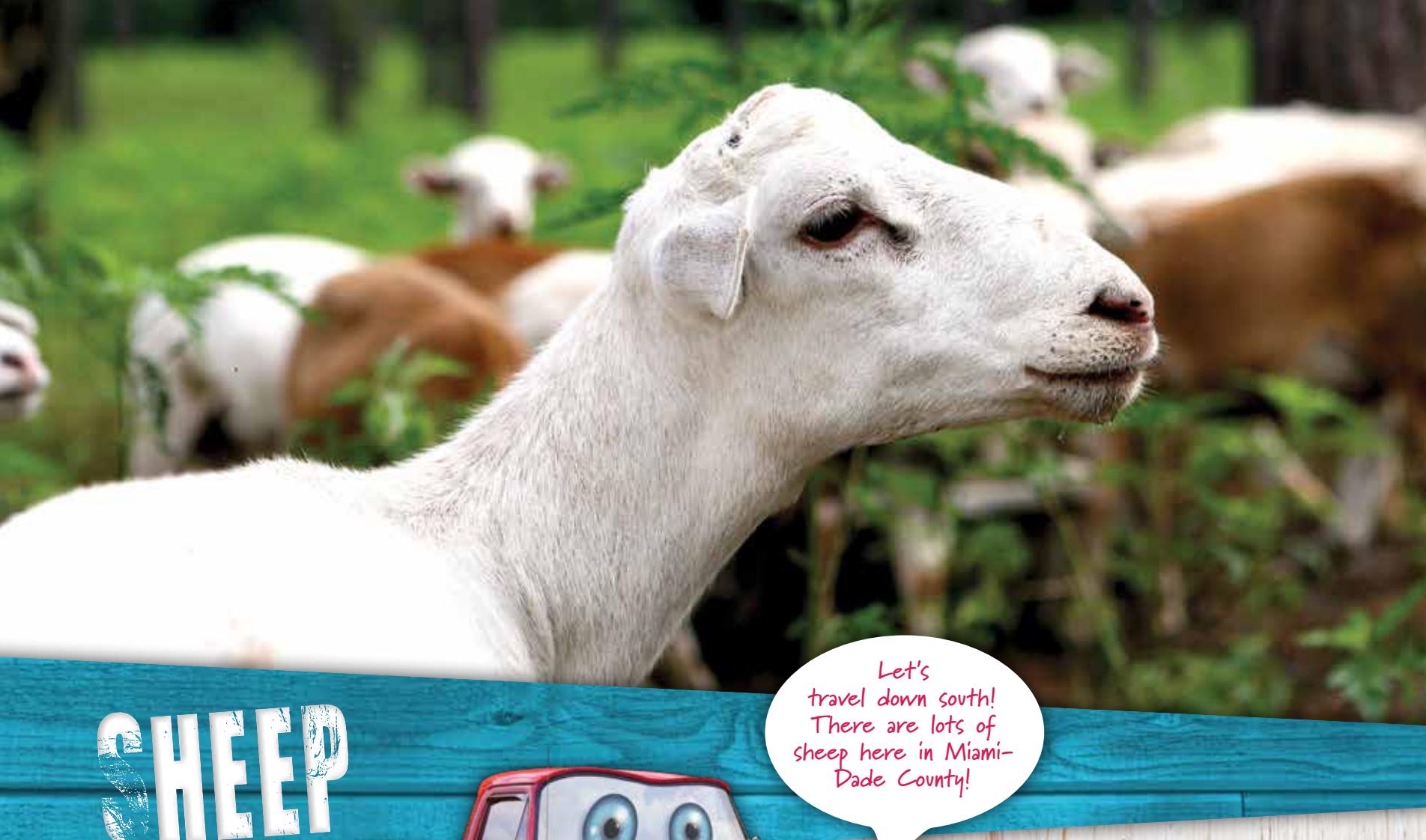
SPANISH



ALPINE DAIRY GOAT

Dairy goats are bred just for their milk. Did you know that people drank goat milk before they drank cow milk? Popular breeds in Florida are Alpine, Toggenburg and Saanen goats, which all came from the Alps in Switzerland. Dairy goats are small, easily handled animals. They can live on small farms and can return the cost of their feed through their milk.

The female goat is called a doe or nanny. The male goat is called a buck or billy. Do you remember what their offspring are called? They are kids, just like you! If you see a goat on a farm, remember that you have something in common with their babies.



# SHEEP



Have you ever heard you can go to sleep by counting sheep? If you count all 18,000 sheep in Florida, you may never go to sleep! There are lots of sheep in Miami-Dade County, but Palm Beach and Marion counties also have many sheep too.

Sheep have been here since the 15th century. Many people think the Florida Native was brought here by Spanish and French explorers. They are known for their natural resistance to parasites. It is an endangered species in Florida, and is raised for its wool. When sheep get a haircut, it is called shearing. These sheep provide about eight pounds of wool each year.



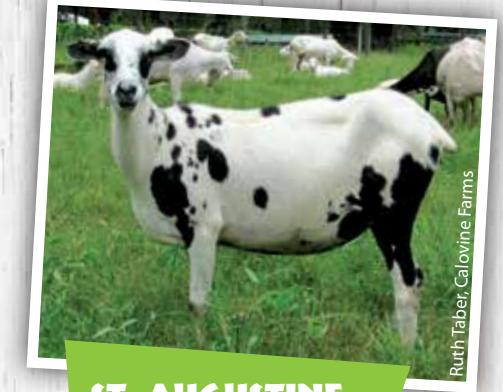
Sheep can be raised for their meat or their wool. Ironically, sheep that are raised for their meat are called "hair sheep." Their hair does not require trimming like wool sheep, and they can endure hotter climates. As Florida's culture changes, raising meat sheep is becoming more popular because dishes that use their meat are becoming more common. We call those meats lamb or mutton.

Here are some popular meat sheep breeds in Florida:



## KATAHDIN

The Katahdin was developed in the 1950s in Maine. It is a low-maintenance sheep that is naturally tolerant of many types of weather and environments. It has a natural resistance to internal parasites.



## ST. AUGUSTINE

The St. Augustine was developed in Florida, so they live well in the heat. When they have babies, they sometimes have twins and triplets of many colors. They love to eat Florida's pastures.



## BARBADOS BLACKBELLIES

Barbados Blackbellies come from the Caribbean island of Barbados. They look like antelopes and can be brown, tan or yellow. They have lots of babies, and easily adapt to Florida's conditions.



## DORPER SHEEP

Dorper sheep were developed in South Africa in the 1930s. Dorpers are very muscular in their hind legs. Their skin covering is hair and wool and it will drop off without being sheared. The Dorper has thick skin, which protects the sheep from the weather.

# FUN FACTS

**RAMS**  
CAN WEIGH UP TO  
450 POUNDS.

**EWES**  
CAN WEIGH UP TO  
300 POUNDS.

SHEEP HAVE BEEN IN FLORIDA SINCE THE 15<sup>th</sup> CENTURY.  
**6 & 11 YEARS.**



**HEALTHY LAMBS**

CAN STAND WITHIN MINUTES AFTER BIRTH.

A GROUP OF SHEEP IS A  
**FLOCK**.

# LET'S REVIEW



## POULTRY



**TYPES:**  
BROILERS ARE CHICKENS RAISED FOR MEAT. LAYERS ARE THE HENS THAT PROVIDE EGGS.

**POULTRY** CAN MEAN CHICKEN, BUT ALSO INCLUDES TURKEYS, DUCKS AND GEESE.

**FLORIDA** SELLS 50 TO 70 MILLION BROILERS AND 2.5 BILLION EGGS AT THE GROCERY STORE EACH YEAR.

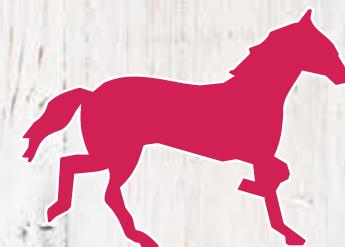
## BEEF CATTLE



**TYPES:**  
ANGUS  
HEREFORD  
BRAHMAN

**CATTLE RANCHING** IS THE JOB OF OWNING, RAISING AND WORKING CATTLE.

**FLORIDA** HAS 1.6 MILLION BEEF CATTLE!

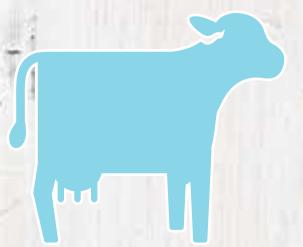


**TYPES:**  
THOROUGHBREDS, ARABIANS, QUARTER HORSES, MINIATURE HORSES, TENNESSEE WALKERS, PAINTS, SHETLAND PONIES AND MORE.

**EQUINE** IS A NAME FOR THE HORSE FAMILY.

**FLORIDA** HAS MORE THAN 120,000 HORSES.

## DAIRY CATTLE



**TYPES:**  
MOST FLORIDA DAIRY COWS ARE HOLSTEINS.

**DAIRY COWS** ARE COWS THAT ARE GOOD AT PRODUCING MILK.

**FLORIDA** HAS MORE THAN 120,000 DAIRY COWS.

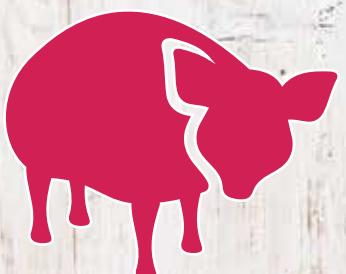


**TYPES:**  
BOER, MYTONIC, KIKO AND SPANISH GOATS ARE RAISED FOR MEAT. ALPINE, TOGGENBURG AND SAANEN ARE RAISED FOR MILK.

**GOATS** CAN BE RAISED FOR THEIR MILK OR MEAT.

**FLORIDA** HAS ABOUT 50,000 GOATS.

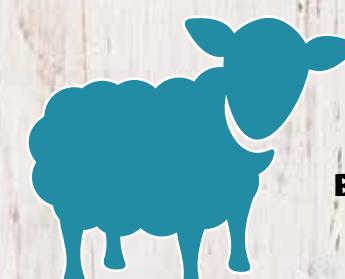
## HOGS AND PIGS



**TYPES:**  
HAMPSHIRE  
YORKSHIRE  
DUROC

**SWINE** IS THE TERM FOR HOGS AND PIGS.

**FLORIDA** HAS MORE THAN 14,000 HOGS AND PIGS.



**TYPES:**  
KATAHDIN  
BARBADOS BLACKBELLIES  
DORPER  
ST. AUGUSTINE

**SHEEP** CAN BE RAISED FOR MEAT OR WOOL.

**FLORIDA** HAS 18,000 SHEEP.



We've come to the end of our tour of Florida livestock and poultry farms. I hope you had a good time and learned some new things. Now that you are an

expert on animal agriculture, you can look for these animals throughout Florida and even at your local grocery store. Tell people what you have

learned and how hard Florida farmers work to keep you and your family fed, their animals healthy and our state prosperous. See you on our next trip!

# DEFINITIONS

**BENEFIT:** Something good, an improvement.

**BREED:** A particular kind of animal that has been produced from common ancestors.

**CONSERVING:** Using or managing (natural resources) wisely.

**COMMERCIALLY:** A word used to describe items that are bought and sold by businesses.

**DESCENDANTS:** A plant or animal that is related to a particular plant or animal that lived long ago.

**DISEASE-RESISTANT:** A trait which prevents an animal or plant from getting illnesses.

**DOMESTIC:** Made in, or raised in one's own country.

**DOMESTICATED:** Animals that have been bred and trained to need and accept the care of human beings.

**COW-CALF OPERATION:** A business that uses cows and bulls to breed and produce calves, which are later sold for use in beef production.

**ECONOMY:** A system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The surroundings in which plants or animals live.

**EQUESTRIAN:** A person who rides horses.

**FERAL:** An animal living in the wild but descended from domesticated animals.

**GREENWAY:** A long area of undeveloped land kept to protect the environment or for recreational use.

**HOLSTEIN:** A breed of large, usually black-and-white dairy cattle originally from the Netherlands produce a lot of milk.

**INCUBATOR:** A machine that allows eggs to hatch artificially.

**LITTER:** The babies born to an animal at a single time.

**OFFSPRING:** The child of a plant or animal.

**MAINTENANCE:** To keep (something) in good condition by taking care of it.

**PARASITES:** An organism or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant.

**PASTURELAND:** Plants such as grass for feeding, especially grazing animals.

**PLANTATIONS:** A large area of land especially in a hot part of the world where crops (such as cotton) are grown.

**PRAIRIES:** Areas of grassland, meadows.

**PRODUCING:** Making or creating (something) by a natural process.

**RAZORBACK:** A thin, long-legged half-wild hog usually in the southeastern U.S.

**RESISTANCE:** The ability to prevent something from having an effect.

**SHEARING:** To cut the hair or wool off an animal.

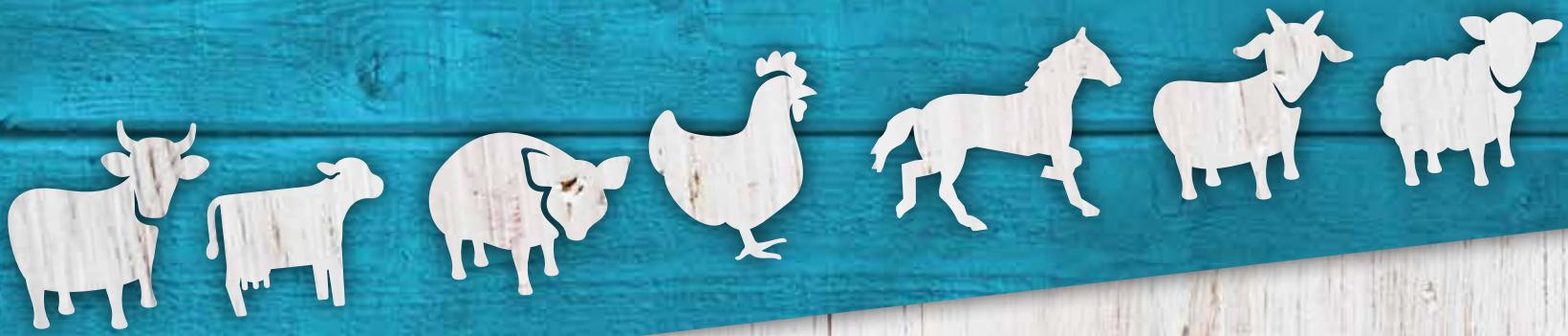
**SWEAT GLANDS:** A group of cells that make and give off sweat.

**THOROLIGHBRED:** An English breed of light speedy horses used mostly for racing.

**WETLANDS:** Land areas such as swamps, bogs, and marshes where water is fully or partially present on the soil.

**WOODLANDS:** Land covered with woods or trees.





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